

### **Amendments to the Drawings**

Four Replacement Drawing Sheets containing corrections to Figures 4, 4A, 5, 5A, 8 and 9 are included in the Appendix. Annotated sheets designating the changes are also included. The annotated sheets are not intended as replacement sheets. Since the Replacement Drawing Sheets previously submitted were apparently not entered, these Replacement Drawing Sheets contain corrections previously included in the earlier submission. The specific additional errors noted by the Examiner have been incorporated into these amended drawings.

## REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

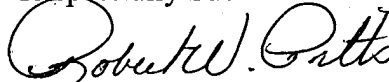
New claims 20-33 are presented herein. Claim 20 recites a protective undergarment comprising an outer layer and an anchor layer and a pocketed sling. Releasable fasteners on the pocketed sling allow the pocketed sling to be attached to and detached from the anchor layer, which includes co-operable releasable fasteners. The outer layer covers the releasable fasteners as well as the anchor layer. By covering the releasable fasteners, the outer layer not only improves the appearance of the protective undergarment, but the releasable fasteners are also shielded so that they will not scratch the hands of a person when the protective undergarment is placed on the wearer.

Claim 32 is virtually identical to the first claim in US Patent 6,926,705, which issued from US Patent Application 09/512,085, the parent application for this divisional application. The difference is that claim 32 recites that the inner layer is detachably coupled to the anchor layer instead of being stitched thereto.

In the previous rejection, Bernard was relied upon as teaching fasteners 51 and 52 were asserted to comprise releasable releasable fasteners on the anchor and sling layers. However, Figure 9 of Bernard clearly shows that the fasteners 51 are exposed on the exterior of the garment. Furthermore it is unclear from the drawings if there is a separate outer layer and anchor layer of the garment shown in Figures 7-9. If there is an outer layer appearing in Figure 9, this outer layer would appear to be bib 40a, which cannot be said to comprise an outer layer comprising a fabric layer shaped to conform to a buttock and leg region of a user as claimed. Bernard is therefore not believed to be applicable to the new claims presented herein.

The pending claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in response to this amendment is therefore courteously solicited.

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**Appendix**

Four Replacement Drawing Sheets are submitted herewith.